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HISTORY

Of the Life and Death of

Clifford
FAIR ROSAMOND,

Concubine to King HENRY II.

SHEWING

How Queen Eleanor plotted to destroy Fair Rosamond, to prevent which, she was removed to a stately Bower, at Woodstock, near Oxford; and while the King was in France, fair Rosamond was poisoned by Queen Eleanor.



Newcastle upon Tyne: Printed in this present year.



THE
HISTORY

OF the Life and Death of

FAIR ROSAMOND,

Concubine to King HENRY II.

CHAP. I.

Of Fair Rosamond's parentage and perfections.

THERE sprung from that ancient and noble house of Cliffords, a damsel named Rosamond, daughter to the Lord Walter Clifford, her beauty couched in her name, she was nature's masterpiece, and one of the fairest roses that ever flourished on earth.

This lady as she grew in years, she grew in favour, each year adding to her perfection; and when she attained to maturity, her fame spread into many foreign places, whereby she was not only the public and common discourse of our own nation, but even the talk of remote countries and foreign people. Her modesty was such, that she sought by all means to allay that far-spread rumour of her beauty, by a retired life; but the more she thought to extinguish and

and quench the report, by sequestering herself from the eyes of men, the more she was spoken of, the farther were her praises blown. At length her beauty reached the ears of the king, through the inadvertency of her uncle, who hearing his Majesty one day highly extol the features of a lady, said
 “ I have a niece, though but young, who in my small judgment of beauty, as far surpasses this lady as she excels the meanest beauty of your court; her eyes sparkle like two twin stars, with such piercing rays, that dazzle those who venture to gaze on them; and her eyes brows shine like jet, and are arched like a rainbow; a spring of roses and lillies are in her cheeks, so mixed, that kind nature never before made so fair a mixture of the purest white and red; her nose a little rising, exceeds that which Appoll painted Venus with, as the chief ornament of her beauty; her lips exceed the coral whenever so finished, soft as the crimson velvet, hiding two rows of orient pearl; her chin, which with a little dimple adds beauty to the rest, and makes her face a perfect oval; her rising breasts are like two hills of snow, and her pretty hand excels in whiteness the alabaster, and so spread and branched with various kinds of azure that the motion of the blood in them manifest thro’ the soft transparent skin; to be brief, she is the master-piece of nature, who when she made cry’d a lucky hit, and threw away the mould, none so lovely, fair and charming might come to dazzle the eyes of men, and wound their hearts.

This description raised such a flame in his Majesty’s breast, that he demanded to know in what corner of the kingdom so great a beauty could be hid; and this the courtier who perceived he had gone too far

at the king began to be enamoured at the bare report, (would fain have drawn in his words again) answered, that indeed he had made this relation only to set out a perfect beauty to the life, begging his pardon and excuse : But the King perceiving by the coldness of this reply, there was more than ordinary in it, grew angry and told him, he trifled with him and charged him on his allegiance to tell him the truth ; so fearing the King's displeasure, the courtier plainly said, There is such a lady, daughter to Walter Lord Clifford, and of my sister's lady, living at Godstow, in Oxfordshire, of whom many worthy persons have been enamoured, and sought her in marriage ; but have been refused, because her tender heart is yet incapable of love ; and this I affirm is the truth on the forfeiture of my head : As for the name of this fair creature it is Rosalind, and indeed she is rightly named, for she is, if she have skill in beauty, the peerless rose in the world. Whilst they were thus discourting Queen Eleanor came to visit the King, which broke off any further talk about her ; nor needed the King any more, for his heart was possess'd with a desire to see her, that he could hardly sleep at nights for thinking of her.

It was not long ere the King resolved to invite himself to her father's house, and to that end took a progress into Oxfordshire, attended only with some trusty courtiers, and was highly welcomed by the Lord Clifford and his lady, who fearing what his design was, ordered their daughter not to appear in his presence : But the King ordering one of his attendants to enquire of the servants to know if she was at home ; and finding she was, demanded to see her, vowing he would not dine till he had. So that all their excuses

cuses of illness, and the like availed nothing then; she was ordered to put on her best apparell and come down, that she might pay her duty thereunto; which she did in the most courtly manner, her blushes, if possible, adding to her beauty; So that at the first sight she appeared in his eyes like an angel; whereupon he eagerly saluted her; and dinner being placed on the table, commanded she should sit down, causing her be placed directly over against him; on whose pretty eyes he had so long gazed, that he forgot ten times to eat, taking in a long draught of love, which in the end proved the ruin of the Rosamond by the jealousy of his ferocious Queen, as in the sequel of this history will appear.

CHAP. II.

How King Henry won the love of fair Rosamond, rich presents, and bribed her Governesse to favour his designs, &c.

THE king having been highly entertained by the Lord Clifford, father to fair Rosamond for three days together, he had several opportunities to discourse in private with the charming virgin, whom he so much won upon with presents of rich jewels, and other costly things, that he raised an ambition in her tender breast, that before it was a stranger to; often professing that if the queen should die he would raise her to the dignity of the crown. He also bestowed his goods liberally on her tutors, or woman, who had

the care of her education; which so blinded her eyes, and prevailed over her conscience, that she promised him to do all that was in her power with the young lady to further his wished for happiness. And so having given store of gold to all the servants, he took his leave of his fair mistress with many endearing kisses; which he had no sooner done, but he heard that troubles were risen again in his territories beyond the seas, which required his presence to allay and settle.

The king soon raising a gallant army, passed into France, the terror of whose name so daunted his enemies; that they quickly fled, leaving the towns and places, they had surprized, to his obedience. Yet in the midst of wars, blood, and slaughter, his love prevailed, and made him write to fair Rosamond in these words:

Fair Lady,

INSPIRED by the remembrance of your incomparable beauty, to which your king is a captive; I have nevertheless made my enemies feel the effects of my anger, and mourn in tears of blood, my hasty parting from you. Guardian angel, whose bright eyes being still before me, made me a conqueror wheresoever I came. 'Tis you whom I hold dearer than all the glories of a crown I permit me, fair one, to assure you my stay shall not be long; and when I return, I'll place you in a glittering sphere above the reach of those you dread, in the meanwhile, let a languishing king prevail in his suit; when he begs a line or two of comfort from your dear hand.

HENRY R.

This letter somewhat surprized the young lady, and filled her with fears and resolution, no

well knowing how she should behave herself in so weighty a matter, nearly concerning her good name, fame, and character; yet the glittering prospect of greatness and honour, pleading on the other hand, she resolved to shew it to her tutors, who as soon as she read it, smiling in her face, said, my dear child, you may now well see that all the happy constellations agree, that so excellent a beauty as your's, must not be enjoyed by a mean person; you're made for a queen and in yielding now to fortune promised, is a large step towards the throne: You may perceive Love is descending in a golden shower, to make you more rich and glorious than Dianna, though she was the daughter of a king. Lay aside your blushes, and send him a comfortable answer; let not too much modesty hinder you, of so great an honour, as being mistress of so noble a king.

This made her blushes come and go, long struggling within her, till at last this crafty matron used so many pressing arguments, that she returned the following answer.

Great Sir,

TWAS with no small astonishment I read a letter subscribed with your royal name, and sent to me, as I suppose from your own hand; but am altogether ignorant in any such power in me, as to make a captive of my king. But could not, I confess, read without some pleasure, that my idea, as your Majesty is pleased to flatter me, should have an influence in making your majesty conqueror over your enemies. Yet, may it please your Majesty, I cannot but interest myself so much in your affairs, as to rejoice when you are glorious, and be glad of your success. But as

to my being placed in a glittering sphere, above
 the reach of those I dread, I neither understand it,
 nor dare I give myself the liberty of thinking what
 your Majesty's meaning may be therein: But as
 I know I deserve no such promotion, so neither
 do I desire it. And as to my own innocency, so
 your Majesty's royal goodness is sufficient to keep
 me from any thing intended by it, that incompat-
 ible with the strictest rules of honour and virtue.
 And therefore praying for your Majesty's happiness
 prosperity, and safe return, I beg leave with the
 humblest submission, to subscribe myself

Your Majesty's ever dutiful,
 and most obedient subject,
 and humble vassal,

ROSAMOND.

The King having receiving far Rosamond's let-
 ter read it over and over: and is it so, lays the
 King, does Rosamond rejoice at my success, and
 pray for my prosperity and safe return! Then
 he's my own, and on that account I'll hasten home.

All other loves henceforth I'll decline

For now the rose of all the world is mine.

CHAP. III.

*How the lady Clifford discovered the love that the
 King had for her daughter; and after a severe re-
 primand sent her away: but they bearing where she
 was, caused her to be brought to court,*

THE King's affairs keeping him in Normandy
 longer than he expected, it happened that
 the lady Clifford going into her daughter's closet
 accidentally espied the king's letter to Rosa-
 mond; at which being extremely surprized, as
 known-

knowing nothing of what had passed between
 them, went and shewed it to her husband the
 Lord Clifford, who had a very tender love for
 Rosamond, at which he was exceedingly disturbed,
 then they returned both together to their daugh-
 ter's chamber, where upbraiding her with being
 a strumpet to the King, and taking away the com-
 fort of their lives, who looked upon her as their
 chiefest treasure, she kneeled down upon her
 knees, and solemnly protested to them, that she
 was still a pure and unblemished virgin. This so-
 lemn protestation somewhat appeased her father's
 anger, who thus replied, my only child, my dear
 Rosamond, the staff and comfort of thy father's
 age, I am glad to find that thou art still inno-
 cent: let me advise thee child, to have a care, and
 keep thyself unspotted as thou art: Gaze not too
 much on the bright sun of honour, lest it should
 make thee blind to thy own destruction: For
 shouldst thou come to glitter near the throne,
 would only be with a faint reflection, that would
 have in it neither life nor heat: What honour
 would it be to have it said, that Rosamond is King
 Henry's concubine, and for unlawful love has
 lost her virtue? Consider child, if chastity be
 gone there's nothing praise worthy in woman's
 pride not thyself in being beautiful, 'tis falsely
 called so if thou art not chaste, for tho' thy body
 appear never so fair, yet without chastity, it can
 not be beautiful. Beauty is like the flowers of
 the Spring, fair to the sight, yet quickly faded
 away, but chastity is like the stars of heaven that
 always shine with a refulgent brightness. There
 is a difference between love and lust, one is fa-
 ristant from the other, as heaven is from hell.
 And all the King's addresses unto thee, are the

effects of lust, and not of love; he has a queen to whom his love is due; and think what a jealous rage will fill her breast, when she shall know thou robbest her of her king: For jealousy is a hell to the mind and a terror to the conscience, suppressing reason and exciting rage. Think then my child, what this thou canst expect, in thy unlawful love or rather lust. Thou wilt be sure to lose thy virtue, thy honour, thy chastity, thy reputation, and what is more, perhaps thy life; and which is most of all, thy soul, without repentance. If therefore thou wilt change thy virgin state, I will take care to get thee a husband for thee, with whom thou mayest live honestly, and that perhaps may be the means to quench that fire or lust thy beauty may have kindled in the King, and make the safe, and us thy parents easy.

Fair Rosamond gave great attention to her father's words, assuring them, with great affectionations, that she would, to the utmost of her power, avoid whatever should be displeasing to them. But that as to the changing her condition, she humbly did desire to be excused; for that she had a mind to live a virgin.

Her mother thereupon said, Rosamond, it would be much more to our satisfaction to see you married, and you well know Lord Fitz Walters has a passion for you, a nobleman of an illustrious family, as wealthy too as most lords in the kingdom, and therefore do not stand in your own light, lest yet thereby do make us both believe you have too great kindness for the King.

To this Rosamond answered she would be willing to give them all the satisfaction they desired, but hoped they would not put her upon courting Lord Fitz Walters, however well accomplished he

might be: but that it was enough for her to en-
 certain him when he came. Her father told he
 as to that, he would take care that all things
 should be managed to her satisfaction; but when
 he came to court her, he expected that she would
 treat him as a person worthy of her love; for he
 should measure the duty that she paid to him, by
 the respect she should shew to that young gentle-
 man. To which she only answered, she hoped she
 should in no case be wanting in her duty.

But while the good Lord Clifford and his lady
 were pleased in their designed proposals of their
 daughter, King Henry returned from Normandy
 having concluded all his business there, and made
 a peace with France, and with his sons. This
 made fair Rosamond very indifferent to the Lord
 Fitz Walters, who by permission of her father
 had begun to court her; so that she told him plain-
 ly she had a greater kindness for him than to ex-
 pose him to the King's resentment. For she was
 sure whoever courted her, must undergo the an-
 ger of the King. This was such a blow to the
 young lord, as quickly cooled his courage, for he
 had no mind to have the King his rival. But be-
 fore he went away he told her father how he had
 been dismissed by Rosamond; who then per-
 ceiving there was no trusting to what she said, re-
 solved to send her away as private as possible. In
 a few days every thing was prepared for her
 journey, and she and her false governors took
 coach and went to a kindred's in Cornwall, in
 order to remain there undiscovered, until the
 King's affections were diverted and placed upon
 some other meritorious beauty.

But when the wolf is set to keep the sheep
 they are not like to be long safe; for Alethea

ed largely by King Henry, was all this while
 a grand intriguer in his love-affair: who took
 opportunity of sending to the King a large ac-
 count of all things that had passed, and where
 they were sent to.

King Henry having this intelligence, resolved
 to have her out of their hands, and thereupon
 wrote for her uncle and commanding him to go to
 Cornwall, and use his best endeavours to bring
 Rosamond to court.

Her uncle seemed at first a little startled at this
 command, but was loth the King should think
 he was unwilling to obey, which might incur his
 displeasure, and run the risque of having those
 great places he held under the King taken from
 him; for the sake of which he undertook the un-
 pleasant service which the King imposed upon him.

Having received the King's commands, away
 he goes for Cornwall, where finding his niece,
 he attended great kindness to her, and how glad
 he was to find her there. After some jocose dis-
 course together, he asked her if she would go up
 with him to court, for he was sure the King
 would make her welcome; she readily accepted of
 his offers, and therefore, without any more ado,
 he provided a very noble chariot for her journey;
 and so attended with her governess, and a few
 trusty servants, he brought her to court, and put
 her in private lodgings which were before appoint-
 ed by the King for her reception.

Her uncle having acquainted the King that she
 was come, and how he had disposed of her, he
 came that very night to pay her a visit; and Ro-
 samond knowing it was the King, kneeled down
 upon her knee, but he ran and took her up, with
 an exordium.

O fairest of creatures under heaven! kneel to me, for thy excellent beauty commands knees and hearts to bow to thee; then kiss her as if he would have sucked away her breath. He said, welcome to me, my sweetest Rose, come to Henry's court, my dearest Rosamond. All here, my Rosamond, are at thy command. Then say my sweet Rose, what is it thou wilt of Henry.

To which she answered, under the frown of my offended parents; I beg protection at your royal hand, and that within your court I may be free.

Free said the King: Alas! my Rosamond, I have reason to make that petition, for you have long since made your King a captive.

Pardon me gracious sovereign, replied Rosamond; for if I have been guilty of such a crime, I am sure it was through ignorance.

To which the King replied, ah! Rosamond, you have made me a captive but without a crime; for 'tis your beauty that has enthralled my heart. That wondrous beauty that's without a parallel. And as for that protection which you beg, King Henry tells you, that you may command it; it is the highest reason that you should have.

Her answer was, I thank your majesty, I will henceforth esteem myself secure, under your promised protection.

This discourse having passed, the king told her that in regard of her being fatigued with the journey, he would give her no further disturbance that night; and so charging her uncle to see that she wanted nothing she desired to have, he took leave for that time.

Alethea, her governess, was with her still,

all she could to persuade her to yield to the
 King's embraces: But Rosamond deemed averse to
 what her father before had said to her, run-
 ning in her mind. And now the King having vi-
 sited her several times, began to be impatient to
 delay; and therefore coming one evening to
 her, (for he generally visited her in the even-
 ing for the greater privacy) he importuned her
 much to yield to his embraces and protested
 wounds could not be cured without enjoyment.
 Rosamond seemed extremely disordered at what
 the King said, and was going to kneel down, but
 the King would not suffer her, but plucked her
 again, and said kneel not my dearest Rosamond,
 it is I should kneel to thee. I only ask—
 Here Rosamond interrupting him said, ask for
 life, great Sir, and you shall have it; or any
 thing that is in my power to give; but ask not
 my honour, not to give up my virgin jewel;
 that is so precious and valuable, I can never
 part with it, but to a husband. My outward form
 but the casket only; 'tis virtue is the jewel;
 when that is gone, what worth is in the
 shell; Not a poor peasant would esteem that;
 much less is it a present for a King. Nor would
 your majesty, if I should part with it, regard me
 afterward but as a strumpet. She that has lost
 her honour, is but a faded flower, how gay soever
 she appeared before, and like a clouded diamond,
 of no value. 'Tis virtue only is the precious
 jewel that ever shines with an unclouded lustre—
 and then kneeling down said: Let me beg of
 you, Sir, to ask no more for that which I can
 never grant but to a husband.

The

The King was greatly surprized to hear those words from Rosamond; of whom he thought should have made an easy conquest; and was much in love with her good parts and virtue, he was with her beauty. And having taken leave of Rosamond, away he goes to her vernal and told her what repulses he had withal from Rosamond, instead of that enjoyment he expected; Alethea, as one that was case-hardened in wickedness, told the King, that if his majesty pleased to follow her humble advice, should not enter into any farther parleys with her, he that he should find a nearer way to happiness he desired.

Pray inform me, said the King, the method you would advise to pursue, in order to gain to my embraces.

May it please your majesty, the way that would have you take is this, that you should come into my chamber to-morrow night, a little before bed time, and I will leave you there a while till I have got my lady Rosamond to bed, and whereas I lie with her every night, I will detain the time of my going to bed, as I sometimes do till she's asleep, and then I will bring your majesty into the chamber, and you shall go to bed to her in my stead; and I doubt not but before the morning light, your majesty will so well satisfy her, that all her anger will be over: and in the future your admittance will be easy.

The King was very well pleased with this contrivance, and as a token thereof, presented her with a rich diamond ring, and told her he would follow her advice, and be with her incovert the next night.

The next evening the King came to Alethea and

ding to his time; and presently after she went to get Rosamond to bed, as she was wont to do: And in about an hour's time she returned and told the King that if he would follow her, she would bring him where Rosamond was in bed and fast asleep.

His Majesty needed no persuasions to follow her, but went immediately to Rosamond's chamber, where he soon embraced himself; and Alethea, taking her leave, left him to manage the business with Rosamond, according to his discretion.

The King having shut the door, and locked it after Alethea, went to bed to Rosamond, who was fast asleep, dreaming of the treacherous part that her governess played. The King not willing presently to awake his charming mistress lay still; but laying closer to her than Alethea used to do, she awaked of herself and not knowing 'twas Alethea that was in bed, said, I prithee governess, (for so she used to call her, and such she thought she was) lie further off a little; you crow'd so close, as if you'd thrust me out of bed.

And now the King thought it a proper time to speak to her, and let her know who it was that was her bed fellow; and thereupon he bespoke her thus: My dearest Rosamond, it is not your governess, it is your King that lies so close to you (and thereupon embraced her in his arms) and sure you need not fear that I would thrust you out of bed.

It is not easy to imagine how great was the surprize that Rosamond was in at this discovery: and said she would be gotten out of bed; but the King held her fast and would not let her go. O Sir, said she, I could not think you would have served me thus, when you assured me that in your court I should be safe and free.

Yes, said the King, I know I promised it; that to a while I will make my word good, for you shall be free and safe as ever.

If it be so, said she, pray let me go, and give me to rise.

No said the King, then I should break my word, cannot be more safe than in my arms, for now I am nothing can injure you.

Rosamond now found resistance would be in vain, that since things had gone so far, she had better oblige the King than to deny him that which he would whether she would or not, and thereupon, without resistance further, suffering the King to do what he pleased.

For a time these two happy lovers often met, and ended their wanton dalliances in private; but at length it reached the ears of the Queen, who complained the King of such usage.

CHAP. IV.

How Queen Eleanor plotted to destroy fair Rosamond to prevent which, she was removed to a stately Bower for her at Woodstock: How the Queen to further design, caused her son Richard to raise a war against his father in Normandy.

QUEEN Eleanor growing outrageous, when she received no kind words or entreaties, mixed with tears, could wean the King's love from his new mistress, she began to use more rough measures, threatening to destroy her, thinking thereby to terrify and affright him from his arms; but to prevent violence, appointed her guard to wait on her at home and abroad; and to remove her further from the queen's sight; that her envy and continual clamours, if possible, might cease, he caused a stately palace, called the delightful Bower of Woodstock in Oxfordshire, to be built with great cost; with all

ing turnings and windings imaginable, far exceeding Delation Labyrinth, which he appointed for her country retirement, when she pleased to take the air. The stately Bower had many entries and passages under-ground, into which light came thro' narrow stone crevices, shaded with trees not perceived to those that walked above, rising in doors in hills far distant, to escape from danger, upon timely notice, tho' the palace should be suddenly besieged and surrounded; and within this stately Bower were intricate mazes and windings through long entries, rooms, and galleries, strongly secured with 152 doors; so that to find the way into the remote apartments, the skilful King had left a silver clew of thread, without the guidance of which, it was impossible to be done. About this Bower were curious gardens, fountains, and a wilderness, and all manner of delights for pleasant situation and recreation, to furnish it out as another earthly paradise, for so fair a creature to inhabit; and thither the King often resorted to see his beloved Rosamond.

This enraged the queen more and more, therefore she consulted her sons how to be revenged; at length it was agreed on that Prince Richard should go over and join with the French to raise war against his father in Normandy, which then belonged to the crown of England and that would draw the King thither to aid his subjects, so leaving his fair mistress behind, the queen would have no opportunity to plot against her life. Nor was Prince Richard slow in this, but made a fierce war, beat the King's lieutenant, and took many towns; which news coming to the King's ear, roused him as a lion from his den, and filled him with princely resolutions and revenge; true indeed, these different passions of revenge and love, long struggled in his breast; but love at last gave place to his honour, and he therefore resolved to pass the sea with a well disciplined army.

CHAP. V.

*How the King took leave of Rosamond to pass the Sea,
left her to the care of her uncle.*

THIS resolution of the King soon came to the ears of Rosamond, which she received with an inexpressible grief. The King however, firm unto his resolution, being just ready to depart for Normandy, went to take leave of fair Rosamond, and to assure her of his love and kindness, when his Majesty came in, he found her in a swoon, and when she came a little to herself, faintly said, ah, dearest prince. How cruel is unkind fortune unto lovers that we must so soon part; my presaging soul forbode never to meet again in this world; was it for this that I gave up my virgin innocency to your will and pleasure! Is there no English General trusty and valiant enough to scourge your rebels, but you must be separated from your faithful Rosamond.

Then calling to him Sir Thoms, her uncle, he said, he worthy knight, I commit this inestimable treasure to your sole care and conduct, my fair Rosamond; a treasure more valuable than a kingdom; take to you a strong guard for your defence, and be careful, I charge you, as you tender your life, that none be permitted to see her, till my return. And you may expect fair Rosamond, I shall write to you often, require your answers. Alas, said she, the parting is worse than death, and I'm afraid my death will be the fatal issue of it. I'm sure the soul and body cannot part with so much pain, as now I part with you. Fain would I speak the last farewell, but cannot, there are so many deaths in that hard word. Go, royal sir, that I may know my grief; for grief's but guess'd, while you are standing by. Ah, Rosamond, replied the King, methinks there are such mournful sounds in parting, that I could lang for ever

mine arms, and look away my life upon thine eyes: But we far to go, and must hasten. And so have I, said Rosamond again, if death be far, for that's the stage to which I now am going, from whence I never, never shall return. And in tears parted from each other.

CHAP. VI.

How fair Rosamond was poisoned by Queen Eleanor while the King was in France.

THE King being gone out of the land, away the queen posts to Woodstock, with some of her trusty attendants, who arrived at the Bower, essayed to enter, which was stiffly denied by Sir Thomas, her uncle, on which a fierce combat ensued, and Sir Thomas and his guard being killed by the queen's party, they seized on the clew of thread and presented it to the queen, who by its guidance, was directed to the centre of the labyrinth, where she found Rosamond, sitting as the sun, within the little world.

It cannot be expressed the amazement and confusion fair Rosamond was in when she beheld the queen, and immediately fell down on her knees, confess'd her fault and implored her pardon for a crime she was constrained to act; and at last she humbly besought her in compassion to the infant that struggled in her womb, she might live, though in a dungeon, 'till she was delivered. But all in vain, the jealousy of the enraged queen could not be appeased, she gave her the choice either to drink the cup of poison she had prepared for her, or die by the sword. Fair Rosamond finding she could have no pity, chose the poison, and drank it up, which soon put an end to her life; whom the queen caused to be buried privately with the rest that were slain, and



and so departed, rejoicing in the success of her revenge
her rival, but little consider'd the misery it would pull
her own head.

C H A P. VII.

*How when the King returned and heard of fair Rosamond's
death, he caused several of the Queen's party to be put
death, and her Majesty to be imprisoned for life.*

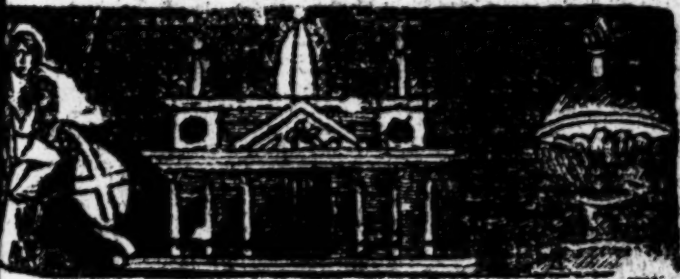
SOON after the untimely death of fair Rosamond, the
King returned home victorious; but when he heard
of the tragical end, his joy was soon turned into mourning
and in a kind of distraction rent his royal robes, often
weeping and crying out, O my Rosamond, my fairest
flower.

! how art thou blasted by a cruel death, and with
all my joys are faded; O thy parting tears presaged
we should meet no more. O that I had staid to defend
from this ruin, though to the loss of a country, nay,
sparing of mine own fame and renown.

The King having a little eased his grief, summoned his
counsellors, and commanded them to make a strict enquiry after
those that were concerned in this action; and they were
eager therein, that most of them were apprehended,
examined, and put to the most cruel tortures; who all blamed
the queen, and so fierce was the King's anger, that neither
the intercession of his nobles on her behalf, could
appease his wrath, but being a foreign princess, her life was
lost, yet the King not only for ever renounced her, but
condemned her for life in a strict imprisonment, command-
ing she died there, her body should not be buried, but
to moulder to dust; nor would he forgive her at his
death, for she out lived him, and was set at liberty after his
death, by her son Richard, who succeeded his father.

King Henry having wrecked his vengeance on the
murderers of his beloved Rosamond, caused her body to
be taken out of that obscure cave, in which the queen had
been hid, and buried her with all the funeral
honours imaginable, at Godstow, near Oxford, erected to her
memory a stately tomb, on which was this inscription.

Within this tomb lies the world's chiefeſt roſe,
ſhe who was ſweet, will now offend your noſe.



This was the end of fair Rosamond, who, had she
been led astray by King Henry, with the glittering tins
royalty might have made a wife worthy for the greatest
in England.

F I N I S

10 JU 52



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